

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE US CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN LAND TENANCY ISSUES
IN NUEVO CASAS GRANDES

1. ACCORDING TO FRONT PAGE ARTICLE EXCELSIOR OF JAN 22 SOME 70 US CITIZENS HAVE "INVADED" 50,000 HECTARES OF EJIDO CASAS GRANDES IN CHIHUAHUA. THESE US CITIZENS ARE REPORTEDLY SEEKING CERTIFICATION OF "INAFFECTIABILITY" FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM FOR THE LAND WHICH WOULD, BY MEANS OF PUBLISHED DEEDS, ASSURE THEM TO BE OWNERS OF LANDS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY EJIDAL. SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL OF JAN 23 SAID THIS IS EXAMPLE OF CORRUPTION.
 2. THE LOCAL EJIDO OFFICIALS OF THE LAND INVOLVED ARE SAID TO HAVE INFORMED PRESIDENT EHCEVERRIA OF THE ABOVE AND ASKED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO GIVE SOME BACKGROUND OF THE MATTER AND TO LIST NAMES OF PERSONS INVOLVED, SUPPOSEDLY US CITIZENS, AND WHO APPEAR PRESENTLY AS LANDOWNERS.
 3. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS IS A LONG-STANDING MATTER. PROBABLY WELL KNOWN TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE PUBLICITY THE MATTER HAS RECEIVED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A SHORT SUMMARY OF ISSUES INVOLVED AND CONSULATE GENERAL'S VIEWS AS TO POSSIBILITY QUESTION MIGHT GO BEYOND PURELY LOCAL ISSUE.
- THOMPSON

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